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TSAC Board Receives New Members

At the next TSAC Board of Directors meeting, scheduled to take place on Sept. 18, there will be two new faces present on the board. Dr. Nancy Moody, Chair of the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association (TICUA), will begin her term in place of former president Joel Cunningham. Dr. Moody received her education from Eastern Kentucky University, Texas Woman's University, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She is currently the President of Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate Tennessee and has been there since 2002. Her designee will be Fred Zuker, President of Lambuth University.

Jeff Gerkin, current President-Elect of the Tennessee Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA), will also join the TSAC Board of Directors in full capacity on July 1. He will replace current TASFAA President, Clyde Walker upon the completion of his term and take over the responsibilities of TASFAA president.

Mr. Gerkin is currently the Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Counseling from Johnson Bible College in 1990 as well as a Master

of Science Degree in College Student Personnel from the University of Tennessee in 1994. He has been employed at the University of Tennessee since 1992.

The new board members will attend their first board meeting on Sept. 18.



Dr. Nancy Moody, Chair of the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association (TICUA) and President of Lincoln Memorial University



Jeff Gerkin, current President-Elect of the Tennessee Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA) and the Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships at the University of Tennessee Knoxville

UPCOMING EVENTS & CONFERENCES

- 04/18/08
TSAC Training
Nashville, TN
- 06/18/08 - 06/20/08
MASFAA Annual
Conference
Biloxi, MS

Meet TSAC's Accounting Technician

Ahmed Feroze, TSAC's Accounting Technician, would probably tell you that life is a lot different in Nashville compared to his home country of Bangladesh. Not only is Bangladesh 12 hours time difference from the United States, the sights and sounds are quite different as well. Instead of looking out a window to catch a glimpse of mountains, seas, and plain land in Bangladesh, Ahmed, now views the skyscrapers, stadiums, and state buildings in Nashville.

Ahmed began work at TSAC in 2006 after previously working at the Department of Environment and Conservation. Prior to coming to the U.S., he completed a Master's Degree in Political Science and an Associate's Degree in Banking from Bangladesh. He was employed for 19 years at a bank in Bangladesh where he focused primarily on foreign exchange.

On a personal note, Ahmed is the fourth child among five siblings. Two of his sisters reside in Bangladesh and one in Dallas, TX. His older brother is a psychiatrist who lives in Murfreesboro.

Ahmed and his wife are also the proud parents of a daughter and son. His daughter currently works as a Computer Engineer for the New York Stock Exchange in New

York City. His son attends the Academy of Art University in San Francisco majoring in Computer Animation.



In his free time, Ahmed enjoys gardening and spending time with his family. He said his favorite aspect of working at TSAC is the opportunity he has to process a variety of payments for employees. He also strives to help people receive their payment as quickly as possible.

On a daily basis, Ahmed strives to perform his job in a professional way and help as many people as he can in the process.

Comments from Ahmed:



I love the work I am doing at TSAC. I have been given many opportunities while working in the financial arena and enjoy the fiscal service. I am thankful that I have a job that allows me to help people. Helping others is definitely the favorite aspect of my job.



Financial Aid Question & Answer

Q: I've certified a student incorrectly, how do I get them back on my roster to certify them correctly?

A: From the student's lottery record, there is an option at the top of the screen that says "Update Payment Status". Simply click the term which was certified incorrectly. This will place the student back on your certification roster. The only time this will not work is if the student has already been paid and their status shows as being paid. If the student still shows "ready to pay" you can still put them back on your roster.

TASF AA Appoints Two Familiar Faces

The voting results for the Tennessee Association of Student Financial Administrators (TASF AA) Executive Board were recently announced and two familiar faces at TSAC were chosen to serve.

Bill Crittenden, Program Review Specialist at TSAC, was selected to occupy the third District seat for the board. Crittenden joins five other districts that occupy areas across the state of Tennessee.

Crittenden said it was an honor for him to even be considered for the role and is excited to begin the new experience.



Bill Crittenden



Cathy Jones

"TASF AA has a wonderful history of service throughout the state," he said. "The elected and appointed leaders will have a challenging year ahead of them. It is my hope that I can do my part in this position to help them meet those challenges head-on and continue to grow in the future."

Another familiar face selected to serve on the Executive Board was Cathy Jones, who is currently employed by Nelnet Guarantor Solutions as a Marketing Representative, but also works closely with TSAC in the daily tasks of her job. She will occupy the role of Secretary when the new term begins.

A complete list of the board members selected includes:

President Elect

Marian Huffman, Lee University

Secretary

Cathy Jones, NGS Guarantec, LLP

District I

Cynthia Stanley, UT Health Science Center

District II

Larry Cyr, Freed-Hardeman University

District III

Bill Crittenden, TSAC

District IV

Sara Jackson, Chattanooga State Tech

District V

Celena Rader-Lambdin, Lincoln Memorial

District VI

Diane Keasling, Milligan College

The new officers for TASF AA will officially begin their term on July 1, 2008.

Legislative Update

During the first year of the legislative session, the General Assembly was unable to adopt lottery legislation. Most recently, the General Assembly has accelerated the committee processing of lottery bills to ensure there will be adequate time for both chambers to agree upon legislation that will utilize lottery revenues in 2008.

Although many of the bills that have been heard in the House Education Committee were “taken off notice,” a large number of those bills will be incorporated into an amendment to House Bill 0653, the omnibus bill that passed in the House last year, but did not pass in the Senate. Among the bills taken off notice, many were in the process of proposing new programs. It appears the House has remained focused on expanding the existing programs, addressing the need-based awards, and lowering the GPA requirement to 2.75. In addition, the Senate Education Subcommittee, which was appointed to study bills related to recurring lottery revenue, has made its recommendation that the selected bills be amended to the omnibus Senate Bill 0611.

The Senate Education Subcommittee met to address the \$460 million currently in the lottery reserve. The committee agreed that \$100 million should remain in the reserve. Of the remaining \$360 million available, \$200 million is being proposed to fund the need-based TSAA award; \$100 million has been appropriated to fund K-12 Capital Outlay projects, and \$25 million will fund the “Energy Efficient Schools Initiative” that establishes energy efficient design and technology

guidelines for all K-12 school facilities. The Committee also gave a positive recommendation to provide a \$25 million endowment to the “Helping Heroes Grant.”

The substantive bill provisions that have had favorable recommendations will:

1. Set a higher threshold for the adjusted gross income (AGI) expanding supplemental award programs such as the ASPIRE Award and HOPE Access Grant.
2. Extend TELS award eligibility from 120 hours to a student earning a baccalaureate or attending the equivalent of five full-time years.
3. Mandate a reduction of the amount of Tennessee HOPE Foster Child tuition Grant only for gift aid received. The student loans and work-study awards would no longer be considered gift aid.
4. Change eligibility requirements for home-schooled students.
5. Expand eligibility requirements for non-traditional students.

Among the new programs being proposed is the Civic Education Scholarship, which was put in place to promote civic learning and participation from high school students in community and government affairs. The “Helping Heroes Grant” is another new program that provides post-secondary financial assistance from new lottery proceeds to discharged Tennessee Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who receive favorable recommendations.

Training Day Set for TSAC

The annual TSAC training has been scheduled for Friday, Apr. 18. The sessions for the event include Resolving Data Base Matches, Citizenship Issues for Undocumented Persons, NSLDS for Beginners, and How to Protect Your Student’s Information. The training will also discuss a variety of state programs including state

scholarships, lottery scholarships, and grants.

The training will be offered at TSAC’s Nashville office located at 404 James Robertson Parkway. Refreshments will be served from 8:30 to 9 a.m. The sessions will begin promptly at 9 a.m. The state Grants and Scholarships sessions along with the Lottery sessions will

begin at 1 p.m. with lunch being provided.

Please RSVP to Karen Myers no later than Apr. 10 if you or your staff members plan to attend. Karen can be reached by phone at (800) 342-1663 ext. 134 or directly at (615) 253-7444. She can also be reached by e-mail at karen.myers@state.tn.us.

TSAC Seeks Student Board Member for 2008~09

It is the time of year to begin the process by which Governor Bredesen will select a student to serve on the TSAC Board of Directors for the 2008-09 term. The Governor will select one student from those who are nominated, as explained below.

Student members alternate between public and private institutions of higher education. Because the 2007-08 student came from a public university, the 2008-09 student member must come from a private institution. Letters explaining the nomination process have been sent to the chancellors, presidents, and financial aid directors at each of the private institutions in Tennessee. The qualifications for the student member are listed below:

- Each public institution is entitled to make one nomination for the 2008-09 student member of the TSAC Board of Directors
 - The term of appointment is for one year, July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009
 - The student must be or have been a recipient of a financial assistance program administered by TSAC
 - The student must be enrolled full-time for the 2008-09 term at the institution
 - The institutional process through which the student is nominated must be student approved
 - A letter of nomination from the president or chancellor, accompanied by a completed data sheet, should be sent to the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation by May 1, 2008
 - TSAC will present the nominations to Governor Bredesen by May 15, 2008
- If you are aware of qualified students on your private campus, please urge them to apply.

Officers and Committee Members Reinstated

Members of the TSAC Board recently approved the reinstatement of the current officers and committee members active on the board. The meeting, which was held on Mar. 20, allowed members of the TSAC staff as well as committee members to provide updates to board members. The officers and committee members remained the same with the exception of Dr. Lori May, President of Remington College, joining the Appeals Committee in place of Paul Starnes, who retired from the Board last September.

The officers and committee members reinstated were as follows:

Officers	Executive Committee	Appeals Committee	Audit Committee
Chairman: Governor Phil Bredesen	Chairman: Governor Phil Bredesen	Mr. Charles W. Manning, Chair	Ms. Deborah Cole, Chair
Vice Chair: Dr. Richard G. Rhoda	Mr. Dave Goetz	Mr. John Morgan	Mr. Peter Abernathy
Secretary: Dr. Claude O. Pressnell, Jr.	Mr. John Morgan	Dr. John Petersen	Mr. Clay Petrey
Treasurer: Mr. Dale Sims	Dr. Claude O. Pressnell, Jr.	Dr. Richard G. Rhoda	
	Dr. Richard G. Rhoda	Dr. Lori May	
	Mr. Dale Sims		

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 18 beginning at 1 p.m. All members of the financial aid community are invited to attend.